

1310 F Street N. W.
(Raleigh's Haberdasher)
Washington, D. C.

HABS No. DC-377

HABS,
DC,
WASH,
245-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

1310 F STREET, N. W.
(Raleigh's Haberdasher)

Location: 1310 F Street, N.W., Lot 49, Square 254, Washington, D.C.

Present Owner: The Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation, 425 13th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004.

Present Occupant and Use: Raleigh's Haberdasher, men's retail furnishings store; to be demolished.

Significance: This building forms part of the low scale commercial area north of Pennsylvania Avenue erected in Washington in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It is one of three similar commercial structures designed by the local architectural firm of Marsh and Peter. The street facades display the firm's versatility in manipulating traditional architectural styles of the commercial vernacular which dominates F Street between 9th and 15th Streets. Raleigh's is an excellent example of the use of Tudor stylistic elements applied to the exterior facade and into the interior retail spaces.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date of erection: 1922 (Permit # 1668, 8/15/22).
2. Architects: Marsh and Peter, D.C.
3. Original and Subsequent owners: At the time of construction, Caleb C. Willard owned the property. It was maintained by the Willard Estate until its sale in 1979 to PADC.
4. Builders: Harry F. Boryer.
5. Original plans and construction: There are no existing original plans.
6. Alteration and additions: There are rear additions dating from 1928 and 1936 (Permit # 9605, 6/22/28 and permit # 193721, 7/25/36). A three story bridge links Raleigh's to

a building across the alley to the south (permit # 150565, 2/17/32). The 1936 permit to build another three-story addition might be in reference to expanding the height and width of the bridge from the narrower and lower 1932 bridge to the three-story configuration it now presents. The addition of the fourth floor is not recorded, but it may have formed part of the 1936 construction. The fifth floor addition is also unaccounted for in the available building permits.

B. Development of Site

In 1939, C.C. Willard combined Lots 19 (815, 823), 47 and 45, to form a U-shaped Lot 48 surrounding Lot 46 (location of Becker's Leather Goods, HABS No. DC-376). Raleigh's lot maintained its history of men's furnishings, housing a tailor for many years before Raleigh's Haberdasher occupied the property. Following completion of Becker's in 1924, Raleigh's located storage, sales and advertising space in the building.

C. Bibliography

1. Primary Sources

D.C. Building Permits, National Archives, D.C.
District of Columbia Deed Records. Record of Deeds, D.C.

2. Secondary Sources

All of the following are available at the Washingtoniana Division of the Martin Luther King, D.C. Public Library.
Baist Real Estate Atlas Collection.
D.C. City Directories, 1865-1979.
D.C. General Assessment Records.

Prepared by: Anderson, Notter/Mariani
Historic Preservation Consultants for PADC.

Wendy Hunter
Architect for PADC
December, 1979

Part II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character: The building is distinguished by its use of Tudor elements in the facade, and its street level arcade formed by three low arches surrounded by showcases.
2. Condition of Fabric: The building is in very good condition.

B. Description of Exterior

1. Over-all dimensions: This building is three stories tall at F Street, and four stories where the site slopes to the rear (south). The rectangular structure measures 55' x 100', with a flat roof sloping slightly to the south. The facade consists of three equal bays. Across the alley to the south stands a five-story brick addition, rectangular in plan. Its east-west dimension is 133', and its north-south dimension is 59'. (See Rear Building, below)
2. Foundations: Concrete footings.
3. Wall construction, finish and color:
 - a. Facade: At street level an open arcade with rectangular stone clad pilasters carries a stone entablature. Three shallow elliptical arches span the freestanding piers. The spandrel areas are accentuated with moldings recalling Tudor precedents. Surrounding each of the two freestanding piers are rectangular show windows two-thirds the height of the first floor. The arcaded first floor serves as a base to the mass above. From its entablature rise four stone-quoined brick piers that continue the roof level. The stone quoins form jambs around each two-story window bay. A bronze panel with cut-out letters fills in the spandrels between the second and third floor windows.
 - b. Rear building: The building has a steel and concrete interior frame which bears on the exterior masonry walls. It connects with Raleigh's first, second and third floors by means of a three-story bridge. A similar one-story bridge connects Becker's (1314 F St.) first floor. The structure in both bridges features a steel and concrete barrel vault design which spans the width of the alley. The exterior of this five-story building suggests three periods of construction. The exact chronology, however, is not decipherable from the available building permit

data. The initial 1928 three-story construction, designed by Walter Peter, appears to have been gabled as is apparent by the extant corbelled courses at the eaves and gable ends. A connecting bridge over the alley, designed by S.E. Able, was built in 1937.

4. Structural system and framing: Masonry and steel with concrete foundations.
5. Openings
 - a. Doorways and doors: A bronze and glass turnstyle door is located at the center bay of the F Street elevation.
 - b. Windows: Four bronze and glass projecting showcases surround the structural piers at the F Street elevation, and plate glass show windows line the interior of the arcade recess. On the second and third stories each bay holds three narrow center pivot windows. The stone quoins form jambs around each two-story window bay. The top chord of the third floor windows form shallow elliptical arches recalling those of the first floor arcade.

C. Description of Interior

1. Floor plans
 - a. Basement: The basement is used primarily for storage and mechanical equipment. Walls are exposed brick.
 - b. First and second floor: The first floor is an open retail space with dressing rooms on the east wall and small offices in the south. An elevator and adjacent staircase are located on the west wall.
 - c. Third floor: The third floor repeats the layout of the floors below with additional space in the adjacent Becker's Building. There are six steps leading to this portion of the store, also used as storage and sales space.
 - d. Fourth and fifth floors: These areas are in the alley building and are used as open storage space.
2. Stairways: Staircases are located on the west wall of the building with approximately thirty risers. A landing at the center is on a slight angle from the wall with the remaining steps down continuing the angle. A metal railing rests on a geometrically patterned iron balustrade.

3. Flooring: Currently there is a combination of linoleum tile and carpeting in sales areas. Restrooms are ceramic tiled and the basement floor is exposed concrete.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: The second floor sales area is accented with wood paneling. The south end of the second floor contains a false wall covering the windows and radiators. It contains a display area and two window seats with pointed arches. These pointed arches are repeated in each display area surrounded by the wood paneling.
5. Decorative features: The second floor display cases that are located on the floor space are of fine dark finished wood in the Tudor Style, with sliding glass doors and glass tops.

D. Site

This building is on the south side of F Street, facing north. Due to its proximity to Pennsylvania Avenue and the White House, F Street (between 9th Street and 15th Street) has been the center of Washington's commercial activity throughout its history. Today the street is composed of buildings in a variety of Architectural styles dating from the 19th and early 20th Centuries. F Street contains predominantly four to five story buildings with one or two ten to fourteen story buildings occurring on each block. In the 1300 block, three tall structures exist; the National Press Building, Bond's, and the American Building. The strong architectural cohesion of this block reflects the fact that most buildings were constructed within a ten-year period (1922-1932) and that the three buildings located at 1310-1322 F Street were designed by the same architectural firm, Marsh and Peter. All buildings on the block exhibit great care in architectural detailing and ornamentation, particularly at the street level. Such care and deliberation of design in this block of F Street has enhanced the pedestrian path and reduced the image of grand scale to that of human proportion.

Prepared by: Anderson, Notter/Mariani
Historic Preservation
Consultant for PADC.

Wendy Hunter
Architect for PADC
December, 1979

PART III PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation (PADC) in compliance with Executive Order 11593 and a Memorandum of Agreement with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation as a mitigative effort in the completion of the Pennsylvania Avenue development plan. John A. Burns, AIA, and Emily J. Harris were the HABS project coordinators. The records were prepared under the general supervision of Jeffrey S. Wolf, Architect with PADC. Historic data was compiled by PADC consultants in historic preservation, Anderson/Mariani, and expanded by Wendy Hunter, Architect with PADC. Photographs were taken by Jeffrey S. Wolf in 1979. The data was edited and prepared for transmittal to the Library of Congress by Robert S. Lange, and architectural historian in the HABS office, in June 1980.